

Amendment to the Claims:

This listing will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the Claims in this application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-3 (Canceled)

4. (Currently amended) A composition comprising:

~~a microbiological culture media broth, the microbiological culture media broth~~
including:

at least one live ~~stabilized~~ dihydrolipoic acid-producing probiotic organism;

R-lipoic acid; and

at least one nutritive agent,

the composition acting as a microbiological culture media and producing a harvestable quantity of naturally-derived dihydrolipoic acid therein.

5. (Currently amended) The composition of claim 4, wherein the at least one live ~~stabilized~~ dihydrolipoic acid-producing probiotic organism is selected from the group consisting of *Lactobacillus* species, *Bifidobacterium* species, *Enterococcus* species, *Streptococcus thermophilus*, and combinations thereof.

6. (Currently amended) The composition of claim 5, wherein the at least one live ~~stabilized~~ dihydrolipoic acid-producing probiotic organism is a *Lactobacillus* species selected from the group consisting of *L. acidophilus*, *L. paracasei*, *L. fermentum*, *L. rhamnosus*, *L. johnsonii*, *L. plantarum*, *L. reuteri*, *L. salivarius*, *L. brevis*, *L. bulgaricus*, *L. helveticus*, *L. grasseri*, *L. casei*, *L. lactis*, and combinations thereof.

7. (Currently amended) The composition of claim 5, wherein the at least one live ~~stabilized~~ dihydrolipoic acid-producing probiotic organism is a *Bifidobacterium* species selected from the group consisting of *B. bifidum*, *B. breve*, *B. infantis*, *B. longum*, *B. lactis*, and combinations thereof.

8. (Currently amended) The composition of claim 5, wherein the at least one live ~~stabilized~~ dihydrolipoic acid-producing probiotic organism is an *Enterococcus* species selected from the group consisting of *E. faecium*, *E. faecalis*, and combinations thereof.

9. (Currently amended) The composition of claim 5, wherein the at least one live ~~stabilized~~ dihydrolipoic acid-producing probiotic organism is *Streptococcus thermophilus*.

10. (Currently amended) The composition of claim 4, comprising at least one live ~~stabilized~~ dihydrolipoic acid-producing probiotic organism selected from the group consisting of *Lactobacillus* species and at least one probiotic organism selected from the group consisting of *Bifidobacterium* species.

11. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 4, wherein the nutritive agent is turmeric rhizome (*curcuma longa*).

12. (Currently amended) The composition of claim 4, wherein the composition ~~microbiological culture media broth~~ comprises ~~a microbiological culture media~~ including:

about 40 composition weight percent of a paste, the paste including at least one live ~~stabilized~~ dihydrolipoic acid-producing probiotic organism;

about 20 composition weight percent R-lipoic acid; and

about 40 composition weight percent turmeric rhizome powder.

13. (Withdrawn – currently amended) A process for preparing a stabilized naturally-derived dihydrolipoic acid compound comprising:

dispersing the composition of Claim 4 in water to form a broth

incubating the broth ~~of claim 4~~ at a predetermined temperature for a select time period to induce probiotic activity;

adding organic ethanol to halt the probiotic activity; and

separating harvesting the stabilized naturally-derived dihydrolipoic acid from the broth.

14. (Withdrawn) The process of claim 13, wherein the broth is incubated at a temperature of about 35°C to about 40°C.

15. (Withdrawn) The process of claim 13, wherein the broth is incubated for a period of about 72 to about 168 hours.

16. (Withdrawn – currently amended) A process for naturally deriving a beneficial compound comprising:

~~preparing the microbiological culture media broth~~ dispersing the composition of

Claim 4 in water to form a broth;

incubating the broth to initiate probiotic activity;

harvesting a waste byproduct of the probiotic activity; and

separating the beneficial compound from the waste byproduct.

17. (Withdrawn – currently amended) The process of claim 16, wherein the beneficial compound is ~~stabilized~~ dihydrolipoic acid.

18. (Withdrawn – currently amended) The process of claim 16, wherein the at least one live ~~stabilized~~ dihydrolipoic acid-producing probiotic organism is selected from the group consisting of *Lactobacillus* species, *Bifidobacterium* species, *Enterococcus* species, *Streptococcus thermophilus*, and combinations thereof.

19. (Withdrawn) The process of claim 16, wherein the nutritive agent is turmeric rhizome (*curcuma longa*).

20. (Currently amended) The ~~microbiological—culture—media—broth composition~~ of Claim 4 wherein ~~the stabilized dihydrolipoic acid-producing probiotic organism produces a stabilized~~ naturally-derived dihydrolipoic acid compound harvested therefrom for use is used in a medicament or nutritional supplement.

21. (Currently amended) A composition comprising:
~~a microbiological culture media broth for producing a stabilized dihydrolipoic acid compound including:~~

Bifobacterium longum;
Lactobacillus acidophilus;
Enterococcus faecium;
Streptococcus thermophilus;
R-lipoic acid; and

at least one nutritive agent, the composition acting as a microbiological culture media and producing a harvestable quantity of naturally-derived dihydrolipoic acid therein.

22. (Currently amended) The composition of Claim 21 ~~22~~, ~~wherein the microbiological culture media broth further comprising comprises~~ *B. breve*, *B. infantis*, *L. bulgaricus*, *L. casei*, *L. fermentum*, *L. helveticus* and *L. plantarum*.

23. (Canceled)

24. (Currently amended) A broth, ~~comprising~~ consisting of:

at least one live ~~stabilized~~ dihydrolipoic acid-producing probiotic organism selected from the group consisting of *Lactobacillus* species, *Bifidobacterium* species, *Enterococcus* species, *Streptococcus thermophilus*, and combinations thereof;

R-lipoic acid;

water; and

tumeric rhizome (*curcuma longa*); ~~and~~

the broth acting as a microbiological culture media producing a stabilized harvestable quantity of naturally-derived dihydrolipoic acid therein ~~compound produced by conversion of R-lipoic acid by the at least one probiotic organism during incubation.~~